

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1-3 are withdrawn from consideration. The Examiner has withdrawn the indefiniteness and anticipation rejections issued in the previous Office Action of August 24, 2001, but now the Examiner rejects claims 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art (APA) in Fig. 6 in view of Kowalewski (U.S. Patent No. 3,249,909).

As a preliminary matter, the Examiner objects to the specification for the reasons set forth in the Office Action, on page 2. In response, Applicant amends the specification, as indicated herein.

Claim Rejections

Claims 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the APA, shown in Fig. 6, in view of Kowalewski. To support these rejections, the Examiner states that the APA teaches all of the limitations of Applicant's invention, except for the fusiform molded portion. The Examiner, however, alleges that Kowalewski makes up for the deficiencies of the APA.

In response, Applicant submits that it is improper to combine the APA with Kowalewski because the latter teaches away from combining the two references. *See In re Grasselli*, 218 USPQ 769, 779 (Fed. Cir. 1983). Kowalewski is directed to an electrical cord device that includes means for providing a strain relief to protect the electrical connections between the conductors in the cord and the contact members in the plug from mechanical strains produced

when force is applied to the cord, rather than directly to the plug, for disconnecting the latter from a receptacle. *See col. 1, lines 9-15.* Further, Kowalewski essentially teaches that having a cord that extends in a straight line through a plug, parallel to a direction of application of a force, is undesirable, as the bond between a molded body and an insulation of the cord would be placed under shear and would be apt to be easily destroyed. *See col. 1, lines 29-42.* Thus, Kowalewski only discloses a cord that is either in a knot, or has a sharp bend, the bend being produced by a sheet or plate 26, within a molded portion. *See Figs. 1-5 and col. 2, lines 42-48.* The APA, on the other hand, discloses exactly what Kowalewski teaches away from. For example, as shown in Fig. 6 of Applicant's specification, the APA depicts a straight sheathed wire 7 within a molded portion that covers this sheathed wire 7.

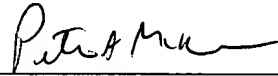
Further, in the configuration shown in Fig. 6, a part of the conductive terminal fitting is exposed at a bottom of the molded portion. Applicant submits that it is not practical for the plug receptacle of Kowalewski to have the configuration described in the sentence above, as implementing such a configuration in Kowalewski would not be safe. Thus, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant submits that it is improper to combine the APA with Kowalewski, and that Applicant's invention, as recited in claims 4-6, is patentable over the APA in view of Kowalewski.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Appln. No. 09/732,787

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee, except for the Issue Fee, for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter A. McKenna
Registration No. 38,551

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037-3213
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

Date: April 15, 2002



APPENDIX

REC'D
APR 18 2002
TC 2800 MAIL ROOM

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification is changed as follows:

Page 6, Brief Description of the Drawings section:

Fig. 2B is a sectional view taken along the line ~~Y-Y~~2B-2B of Fig. 2A;

Fig. 5A is a sectional view taken along the line 5A-5A of Fig. 4;

Fig. 5B is a sectional view ~~showing~~ taken along the line 5B-5B of Fig. 4;

Page 7, fifth full paragraph (bridging pages 7 and 8):

Fig. 2B is a vertically cross sectional view seen from the ~~Y-Y~~2B-2B line of Fig. 2A. At said one side of the molding part 43 facing the elastic lid plates 9a, 9b, radiating fins 45, 46 are defined which are elements of the invention. That is, said one side of the molding part 43 is formed at an inner part thereof with a tapered shape dividing into the upper mold 41 and the lower mold 42, and the tapered slope is formed with the radiating fins 45, 46 having a plurality of parallel alternate concave grooves and convex ribs. Diameters at front ends of a tapered hole formed with the radiating fins 45, 46 have sizes for the sheathed wire 10 being able to pass therethrough.

Page 9, third full paragraph (bridging pages 9 and 10):

Fig. 4 is a side view showing, partially in cross section, a state where the terminal connection waterproof treated by the resin is connected as the earth cable to a vehicle body with, for example, a bolt 3. Figs. 5A and 5B are front and cross sectional views respectively showing cross sections along the 5A-5A line and the 5B-5B line of Fig. 4.